(b) if so, the number of Public Interest Litigations filed in various High Courts and the Supreme Court as on the 30th September, 2003, 2004 and 2005, respectively;

(c) the number of the litigations adjudicated during the above period; and

(d) the average time taken for disposing of each litigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The information about filing and disposal of the petitions relating to Public Interest Litigation is available in the Supreme Court as well as High Courts who have been requested to furnish the information which is awaited.

Modernization of judicial system

2048. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that judicial system has gone hi-tech and video conferencing is making justice available via tele-link;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the number of jails that have since been connected under this system; and

(d) the position of the jails in Orissa and the time-frame within which these would also be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) An E-Committee has been constituted by Government to advice on technological communication and management related changes in the Indian Judiciary. The Committee has submitted its report on National Policy and Action Plan for implemenetation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary including video conferencing between courts and jails. It has estimated a sum of Rs. 854 crores to implement the project of computerisation of entire judicial system of the country over a period of 5 years. The assent of the President was also conveyed to the proposals of the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Maharashtra to amend section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to allow production of an accused before the Magistrate through video linkage.

'Prisons' is a State subject under List-II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. Therefore, the information on the status of Video Conferencing

through tele-link between the courts and the jails in Orissa is not available in the Department.

New law for registration of marriages

†2049. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a draft legislation for registration of marriages after amending the existing law;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose of enacting this law and what would be its impact on the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Computerization of Judiciary

2050. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated plans to spend Rs. 1000 crore to computerize judiciary across the nation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the computerization programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) An E-Committee has been constituted by Government to advise on technological communication and management related changes in the Indian Judiciary. The Committee has submitted its report on National Policy and Action Plan for implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary. It has estimated a sum of Rs. 854 crores to implement the project of computerization of entire judicial system of the country over a period of 5 years. Additionally, it may be stated that about 700 city courts in four metros have been computerized at a cost of Rs. 17.76 crores. A sum of Rs. 24.24 crores were provided in 2003-04 for computerization of 900 courts located in State Capitals. Government has also approved a scheme of computerization of District Courts at a cost of Rs. 384.53 crores in 2005.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.